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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

10 FEB 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

This is in reply to your letter of January 26, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, Mr. W. F. Smith, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of users of private land mobile radio spectrum and the impact that these proposals may have on their radio systems, including the costs of required modifications.

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We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituent's concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due February 26, 1993, and Reply Comments are due April 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued near the end of 1993. We urge your constituent to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosure:
Notice

CNTL NO - 9300369

cc:

Chief, PRBureau
Chief, LM&M Division
Deputy Chief, LM&M Division
Lou Sizemore, Room 857
Docket Files, Room 222
Licensing Div., PRB, c/o Room 5202
P&P Branch Files

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LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300369	02/02/93	01/26/93	02/15/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Mitch McConnell	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
W F Smith	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/LMM			
2-3-93			
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
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REMARKS:

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702

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January 26, 1993

Mr. Alfred Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, DC 20554


Dear Mr. Sikes:

Mr. W. F. Smith of Lexington, Kentucky recently shared with me his concerns regarding the Federal Communications Commission's regulatory revision proposal for private land mobile radio services. Mr. Smith states that the requirements for spectrum narrowing could pose an undue financial burden on his company's commercial radio customers as they would need to purchase new equipment or pay to preserve their spectrum access.

I would greatly appreciate your review of Mr. Smith's concerns. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of his correspondence.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,


MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/rjb

Enclosures